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## Pelham remembers



ALLAN BEVIER /  
STAFF PHOTO  
Royal  
Canadian  
Legion branch  
613 member  
Rick Hatt lays  
a wreath at  
the cenotaph  
at Centennial  
Park in  
Fenwick,  
during an  
early  
Remembrance  
Day ceremony  
Sunday  
morning.  
See story  
on page 2.

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# UPFRONT

## REMEMBRANCE DAY

# Two soldiers mourned at Pelham ceremony

ALLAN BENNER

QMI Agency Niagara

While remembering the soldiers who sacrificed their lives decades ago, the thoughts of many at a Remembrance Day ceremony in Pelham Sunday were also with those still sacrificing their lives today.

"As we look at Canada, this great country we live in, we realize that the reason it's so great is because of the sacrifices that have been made before us," Niagara West-Glanbrook MP Dean Allison told a gathering of veterans, Royal Canadian Legion branch 613 members, police officers, firefighters, cadets, political leaders and residents.

"To all those members of the forces that have been involved, that have sacrificed their lives, and to all those families that have had to endure, we want to say thank

you so much."

Referring to the killings last month of Warrant Officer Patrice Vincent in Montreal and Corp. Nathan Cirillo in Ottawa, Allison said "we realize even more than ever that we need to continue to stand tall to fight for these Canadian values that we all cherish."

Niagara West-Glanbrook MPP Tim Hudak dedicated the ceremony to the two soldiers who recently lost their lives.

"We dedicate this day to the unknown soldier who lies entombed at the National War Memorial in Ottawa. We dedicate this day to Nathan Cirillo, who sadly lost his life guarding over him and all he represents," Hudak said.

"We dedicate this day to the men who 100 years ago left a beautiful quiet young country like Canada as the Great War began, and those men and

women who left our beautiful country just two weeks ago to fight back against the killing terror of ISIS."

The ceremony, he added, was dedicated to men and women across the country who fought and died to preserve freedom.

"We will always remember them," he said.

Pelham Mayor Dave Augustyn called the slaying of Vincent and Cirillo "heinous acts ... intended to intimidate us, intended to cause us to fear for our safety and intended to chip away at our freedoms. They have failed."

Instead, he said, Canadians again demonstrated courage, duty and selflessness "of true patriot love and a deep respect for the brave men and women who serve and are continuing to serve in Canada's armed forces."

Rev. Russ Myers prayed for



ALLAN BENNER / STAFF PHOTO

A piper leads a procession to the cenotaph at Centennial Park in Fenwick for an early Remembrance Day ceremony, Sunday morning.

the soldiers of past conflicts during the ceremony.

"As we remember the horrors of war, past and present,

the Holocaust and the terror death and destruction, may we be sensitive to the qualities within us that make war

possible," he prayed.

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## THEFT: Thieves tore out front window to enter shop

# Motorcycles stolen from Pelham business

ALLAN BENNER

QMI Agency Niagara

Robin Primerano's heart sank when she had to share the news with her father.

John Clare, who founded Clare's Cycle and Sport nearly 60 years ago, was vacationing in Myrtle Beach, but Primerano had to call him.

Someone smashed through a display window at the 789 Regional Rd. 20 shop causing about \$15,000 damage,

and then stole about \$40,000 worth of motorcycles.

"My dad's upset," she said. "I didn't want to call him, but I had to ... It's a violation."

Primerano said the alarm rang at the shop at about 1:42 a.m. last Thursday. She arrived shortly after 2 a.m. to find the large front display window torn from the building and seven KTM off-road motorcycles missing.

She said the culprits

appeared to have been driving a rented cube van.

"We figure they threw rocks at the window and then pulled the whole window out, frame and all," Primerano said.

They then loaded up the motorcycles and left.

"They took all the smaller dirt bikes," she said, adding the off-road bikes don't need to be registered and can be sold without paperwork. The smaller bikes were also lighter

and easier to haul away.

"We don't know what their motivation was," Primerano said.

She said they checked the security camera footage, but all they could see was someone covering the camera. They also brought equipment with them to cut chains that were in front of the window.

"This looks like it was all planned out," she said, adding they've given all the information they had to Niagara Regional Police.

"I want them to do what they can do."

Meanwhile, she said they're turning to social media websites to aid in the investigation.

Primerano said her son has posted information about the theft on the Internet, warning people to "be on alert for these bikes."

She said she was amazed at

how quickly the information has travelled, adding someone in Peterborough had already reposted her son's warning.

Angelo Ippolito from Katina Construction arrived at the shop later that morning, filling the hole where the window had been with cinder blocks to ensure the building would be secure before the end of the day.

NRP are investigating the theft.

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# LOCAL NEWS

## ■ HEALTH

# Health coalition urges action to save hospital

**ALLAN BENNER**  
QMI Agency Niagara

It's time for action.

If the residents of the Welland area want their hospital to remain open into the future, they'd better start fighting to save it.

That was the message members of the Niagara Health Coalition, the Ontario Health Coalition and the south Niagara branch of the Council of Canadians shared with about 120 people during a quickly organized meeting last Thursday night at the Welland Civic Square community room.

Attendance was about twice the number organizers expected. The 100 or so chairs were quickly filled and late-comers were left standing at the back of the room.

"We're at a time to get active, put our arms behind our words and galvanize our community together so that we can do a concerted effort to save the Welland hospital," said Niagara Health Coalition co-chair Sue Hottel. "We have to start now."

In her 14 years as executive director of the Ontario Health Coalition, Natalie Mehra said she has never seen an area where the cuts that are proposed are as severe as the cuts in Niagara.

"I'm not exaggerating. Here we are in a community of 51,000 people, and the former health minister (Deb Matthews) approved the closure of the local hospital," Mehra said, later adding the hospital serves a population of about 92,000.

## ■ RUFF RESCUE

# Firefighter dog's best friend

**KARENA WALTER**  
QMI Agency Niagara

A playful puppy got more than he bargained for when he found himself stranded on a roof last Friday and had to be rescued by firefighters.

The puppy was spotted on the porch roof of a two-storey Scott St. home in St. Catharines by an alert four-year-old. Andrew Muehlenbeck was driving his daughter Mikayla home from school when the girl noticed the puppy in peril.

"I pulled over to the side of the road right away and called the humane society and 911," Muehlenbeck said.

"Miki has a good eye for that stuff!"

when neighbouring communities are taken into consideration.

"Nowhere in this country are they closing hospitals in towns of 50,000 people. It's unheard of. It's completely unacceptable."

The plans of Niagara Health System and Ministry of Health and Long Term Care to close five Niagara hospitals and replace them with a single new site, is "the most aggressive attack on public health-care services that I've seen in all the years that I've been in this position, and in my years before when I followed health policy."

Niagara Health System spokesman Brady Wood said hospital administration "remain open to hearing from the community."

"We want to hear people's concerns and we want to deal with their concerns as we implement the plan," he said.

Meanwhile, he said "everything is on track" planning for the new hospital proposed for Niagara Falls.

"We'll have more news to share in the next few weeks around just firming up the process," Wood added.

After 20 years of hospital spending cuts across the province, closing 18,500 hospital beds in the process, Mehra said there's little room left for additional cuts.

The province now has far fewer hospital beds per capita than any other province in the country, and only three countries in the entire industrialized world have fewer hospital beds than Ontario

— Turkey, Chile and Mexico.

She said there is still waste in Ontario's hospitals, such as "exorbitant executive salaries and all kinds of parasitic bean counters and consultants and reams of managers," but frontline services cannot be cut any more.

"We need to stand up now. It's time that regular Ontarians of every stripe say, 'Enough is enough.'"

But Mehra is confident that if enough people demand an end to plans to close the hospitals, the provincial government will have to budge.

"We're saying stop it. Stop the cuts to the community hospitals, stop the closures of community hospitals, stop the planned closures of emergency departments, stop the cuts to staff and services. Enough is enough, come up with some other plan but no more of this. They need to hear about it. They need to see visible, massive public resistance."

Mehra said the coalition has

been successful in the past.

"We know this can be effective," she said.

"It is possible to save your hospital," partly because nobody in Ontario supports this at all, and partly because the (Premier Kathleen) Wynne government will respond more to public pressure than even the McGuinty government did."

About five years ago, she said the province was planning to close emergency departments in at least a half-dozen small town hospitals as well as a few entire hospitals. After as many as 4,000 people participated in a rally at Queen's Park, she said plans for those emergency departments were quietly abandoned.

"No more emergency departments were closed after that. Unfortunately Niagara was first, and they closed down two here and converted them to urgent care centres," she said. "But now it's back on the table and we feel we need to take action again."

They're organizing another

rally at Queen's Park at noon on Nov. 21, and Mehra said they're hoping as many as 10,000 people from across the province participate.

Hottel said the local coalition is organizing buses to bring south Niagara residents to Queen's Park for the rally, and she asked people to call her at 905-932-1646 if they're interested in taking advantage of the free ride to the rally, or being part of a committee they're planning to set up and run a very visible and vocal campaign that could include yard signs and billboards.

Residents of neighbouring communities also attended the meeting, including Wainfleet Ald. Betty Konc and Port Colborne resident and former mayor Bob Saracino. They both volunteered to do their part to drum up support for Welland's hospital in their respective communities.

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## COMMENT

# A 'glorious and free' remembrance

DAVE AUGUSTYN  
For PelhamNews

The weather on Sunday morning was glorious. The leaves on the ground and the chill in the air reminded us that autumn was upon us.

The sun shone beautifully through the trees and the air was clear and sweet.

It felt so peaceful and so serene. It felt like the perfect example of freedom, of promise and of individual choice.

The weather made it feel so far from the ravages of war. It felt so far from oppression and from tyranny.

The airplane we heard in the distance was for recreation, not a vehicle of war or

destruction.

And yet, Pelham residents took time to gather with members of Royal Canadian Legion and the ladies auxiliary, Royal Canadian Army Cadets and others at the cenotaphs at Centennial Park, Old Town Hall and Peace Park to commemorate and remember the sacrifices of Pelham's veterans.

Each Remembrance Day it is right to remember those brave men and women who have served, and who continue to serve our country during times of war, conflict, and peace.

We honour them for their courage, their commitment and their devotion to standing "on guard" for Canada.

The recent slayings of Warrant Officer Vincent (near Montreal) and of Corporal

Cirillo (in Ottawa) also came to mind this week. And while those heinous acts were intended to intimidate us, to cause us to fear our safety and to chip away at our freedoms, they did not.

Instead, we witnessed other acts of courage, of duty, of selflessness, of true patriot love and of deep respect for the brave men and women serving in Canada's Armed Forces.

Our Remembrance Day commemorations remind us of our freedoms — the freedom to express ourselves, to participate in cultural, religious and political activities to come and go as we please, and to pursue a safe and happy life. These freedoms are all due to the sacrifices of veterans and of those who serve today.

They sacrificed their futures and continue to make those sacrifices so that our future might be free and might be one of peace and happiness.

Engraved on the cenotaphs throughout our town and on the bricks at Veterans Park are the names of those people from Pelham that were killed in service. May their memories also be engraved in our minds and on our hearts.

As we commemorate Remembrance Day 2014, let us be thankful. Let us never forget. And let the prayer in our national anthem be fulfilled: "God keep our land glorious and free."

You may contact Mayor Dave at [mayordave@pelham.ca](mailto:mayordave@pelham.ca) or read past columns at [www.pelhammayordave.blogspot.com](http://www.pelhammayordave.blogspot.com).

## Shipwrecks — Stepan Khalturin

SKIP GILLHAM  
For QMI Agency Niagara



Stepan Khalturin pictured in Rotterdam, May 1990.

WILLEM VAN MAANEN PHOTO

The Russian freighter Stepan Khalturin was built at Rostock, East Germany, in 1965.

It was strengthened to work in the ice of the Baltic region and it could carry up to 4,235 tonnes of cargo in the four cargo holds.

The 105.67-metre-long diesel-powered carrier made two trips to the Great Lakes in 1967.

With the changes in the old Soviet Union, this vessel moved to the Latvian Shipping Co. as Stepan Khalturin in 1991 before being sold to a Syrian company in 1996.

In 2001, it was operating under a fifth and final name of Dana. The ship was now registered in San Tome & Principe, a series of islands in the Gulf of Guinea, off the west coast of Africa.

Dana was working in the Middle East when it ran into trouble due to heavy seas and a fire off Oman on Aug. 14, 2001. The ship was noted as headed towards the Hallamitya Islands, near Yemen, with a starboard list when the crew abandoned the vessel.

The 15 sailors were picked up by a passing container ship but an aerial search of the region later that day could not find the Dana. It is presumed to have sunk.

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# CALNEWS

■ **POLITICS:** Veterans, groups, politicians weigh in

## Should Remembrance Day be a national holiday?

**RAY SPITERI**  
QMI Agency Niagara

Honouring the men and women who have and continue to serve Canada is a no-brainer.

But some involved in veteran affairs are not so sure having a national statutory holiday is the best way to do it.

Many believe giving everyone the day off work and school could allow everyone more of an opportunity to pause and think about the sacrifices made by soldiers.

Others think it could give people — especially students who attend services in their schools or at local public places on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month — just another excuse to stay home and watch television or play video games.

Last week, New Democrat MP Dan Harris introduced a private member's bill that would make Remembrance Day a paid national statutory holiday, treating it like other paid statutory holidays, such as Canada Day.

MPs passed a second-reading vote on the bill last November 25th.

Currently, the federal government recognizes Remembrance Day in the Holidays Act as a national holiday, but it doesn't require provinces to treat it as a paid statutory holiday.

So, while some workers across Canada have the day off, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia do not honour Remembrance Day as a statutory holiday.

"Our veterans risked and lost their lives in service to our country," said Harris. "It's important to honour them for protecting and fighting for the freedoms we value today."

"When families attend ceremonies together, they are able to teach their children about the sacrifices and bravery demonstrated by our veterans and military. Having Nov. 11 made into a statutory holiday will allow every Cana-

dian an opportunity to attend their local Remembrance Day ceremonies and participate in this important day."

Barb Burrows, secretary treasurer of the Niagara Falls Central Veterans' Committee, said she was at a group meeting last week and the question came up.

"It was 50-50. Half said it should be and half said it shouldn't be," she said. "They do have good services in the schools. I'm thinking if it's a bank holiday, kids will play on their Playstations (instead of attending services). I think it should be kept the same as it is."

Norma O'Neil, auxiliary president of Royal Canadian Legion Branch 51 in Niagara Falls, said she would prefer to see things stay the way they are.

"At one time, I thought, yes, of course it should be (a statutory holiday), but then I started thinking we have veterans going to schools and schools coming to our services. I'm not so sure that would still happen if we changed things."

Niagara Falls MP and Canada's Defense Minister Rob Nicholson said the government "welcomes any and all suggestions on how we can improve our commemoration of Canadian veterans and their sacrifice."

"We are pleased that parliamentarians voted in favour of this bill and the standing committee will now begin an important study to hear from veterans, veteran stakeholders and experts on a national Remembrance Day holiday."

Mike Blais, president and founder of the Canadian Veterans Advocacy group, said his organization has been advocating for Remembrance Day to be a statutory holiday.

"It should be and the standard should be established by the federal government," said Blais, whose group was created to push legislative changes that would provide more equality for veterans.

"When we have a national holiday where respect is paid on a national level, the spirit of the nation is satisfied. Canadians are patriotic at heart, but sometimes we need a platform to demonstrate that patriotism."

Blais said he is a "little bit" concerned fewer people would attend services if Nov. 11 becomes a statutory holiday, but not if schools do a good job

educating students in the week or weeks leading up to the day.

"If that was the case, kids will want to go to local ceremonies to be inspired. I speak in schools often. I talk to a lot of teens, they want to go, they would like to go."

Niagara Falls resident Nick Ross, a veteran of the Second World War and the Korean War, said he believes Remembrance Day should be a statutory holiday.

day.

"Canada was forged in wars and, of course, it wasn't politicians that won the wars, it was the soldiers," he said. "I think that it should be to honour the memory of those people, many of them who were my own uncles, that were killed."

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## Kinette club presented with charter



SUBMITTED PHOTO

A new volunteer service club has been formed to serve Pelham and Welland. The Kinette Club of Fonthill & District was recently welcomed into the Kinsmen Association and presented with its charter. Pelham Mayor Dave Augustyn is seen congratulating Kinette president Carolyn Steven. From left to right are: district governor Joanne Binf, Lola Braunn, Betty Twomey, Mary Stanly-Tiron, Cindy Ripley, Steven, Becky Harris, Amelia Powell, Lynn Frederick, Augustyn, Nina Dus, Barb Mattheis, district governor Marty Makins, Patty Keller, Kinsman Brian Steven, Dinah Holmes and Diane Gordon. Absent are Kinettes Ronnie Carter, Darlene Haist and Carla Iggulden.

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### Zumba Classes @ Pelham Arena

Tuesday, November 18 9:30 am – 10:30 am  
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Thursday, November 20 10:00 am – 11:00 am

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## COMMUNITY EVENTS & NEWS

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- Joint Accessibility Advisory Committee (one person for a four-year term)
- Pelham Library Board (eight persons for a four-year term)
- Committee of Adjustment (five persons for a four-year term)
- Board of Directors for Peninsula West Power Inc. (one person for a three-year term)

Visit [pelham.ca](http://pelham.ca) for application details and to apply by **Thursday, November 27, 2014.**

For more information, please contact the Town Clerk at [nbozzato@pelham.ca](mailto:nbozzato@pelham.ca) or (905) 892-2607 ext. 315.

**Santa Claus Parade Applications** – now available at Town Hall or online at [pelham.ca](http://pelham.ca)

**Outdoor Christmas Market Vendor Applications** – now available at Town Hall or online at [pelham.ca](http://pelham.ca)



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**November 15 (10am to 3pm): "Homes for the Holiday" House Tour – 6 locations in Fonthill**  
Presented by Fonthill United Church – call (905) 892-6433 for information.

**November 15 (11am to 3pm): Holiday Shopping Spree**  
Royal Canadian Legion Br. 613, 141 Highway 20 E. Presented by the Fonthill Lioness.

### Christmas Light Competition – Nominations now being accepted!

Do you or your neighbour put up an award winning Christmas Light Display? Nominations will be accepted until December 5, for the Communities in Bloom Christmas Light Competition. Forms are available at Town Hall or online at [pelham.ca/christmas-in-pelham](http://pelham.ca/christmas-in-pelham)

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## ■ EMPLOYMENT

## Niagara job market quietly powers up

DON FRASER

QMI Agency Niagara

Slowly but surely, Niagara's jobs picture is brightening.

Statistics Canada reported last Friday the unemployment rate dipped in October to 6.9% from

7.3% in September.

But when compared year over year, the results are more revealing, with the unemployment rate falling under 1.5 percentage points and employment up by 4,100 from Oct. 2013 to last month.

Across Canada, 43,000 jobs were added in October and the unemployment rate was down 1.3 percentage points to 6.8% — the lowest since February 2008.

Vincent Ferraio of Statistics Canada said the number of people

employed in the St. Catharines-Niagara census metro area actually only rose by 800 to 195,100 last month.

That implies little actually happened, Ferraio said. However, the yearly change is "fairly significant" for the area.

All are seasonally-adjusted estimates, which removes the effects of natural seasonal variations and can give a better picture of true employment status.

Overall, the region stands about in the middle of the pack compared to other Ontario metro regions. Not long ago we were close to the worst in Ontario for unemployment.

"The numbers indicate we continue to be on a slow, but steady economic recovery," said David Alexander, executive director of the Niagara Workforce Planning Board.

He adds it's clear employment and job creation will be a major priority for most Niagara municipal councils.

And this extent the board can be an excellent tool for planning employment initiatives, either through staff resources or its blog [www.niagaraworkforce.ca](http://www.niagaraworkforce.ca) which also contains a monthly release of area employment data. The board is also asking stakeholders to participate in an employer survey that starts in January.

"It's an opportune time for councils to examine what sort of assets are at their disposal to ... create a good employment situation," he said. "And also, the investment opportunities that may exist for local employers to expand their workforce."

A modest swelling of jobs in the manufacturing base has helped the jobs picture here, said Bob Seguin, director of economic development for Niagara Region.

Seguin said this is borne out by information from the Niagara University Association.

In a release Thursday, the association says more than 30 manufacturing firms in Niagara grew over the course of the year.

The NIA celebrated a milestone of its own as its membership swelled dramatically, surpassing past the 200-member mark. All of this points to "positive signs of growth," it

## FROM A NIAGARA INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATION RELEASE

Companies that grew over the years include Powerblades, Welded Tube, Welland Forge, Global Architectural, Quality Belt Maintenance and a new food processor in Welland: JTL Machine, Oskam Steel, On the Road Machinery, Ingredion, Jungbunzlauer and Canal Block in Port Colborne; Airbus, Ferguson Neudorff, Fiend Pen Plastics in Fort Erie; Kaupp Electric, Triangle Tool and Die, Peninsula Foods, Trenergy.

said.

Walter Sendzik, mayor-elect of St. Catharines and former CEO of the Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce, points to the new Outlet Collection at Niagara and hiring at Stel and Canadian Tire Financial Services as being three other likely sources of recent new employment.

"I think we also had a better tourism season in the Niagara area," said Sendzik. "I'm not surprised by the employment numbers showing more people working."

Sendzik said the real story is in "the details and the diversity of jobs being created."

"That's the kind of detail I'd be looking for — seeing where the jobs are being created and that's what I'll be benchmarking on."

He said that includes "good paying jobs in the community and a broad range of (employment) options."

The local Statistics Canada results are for the St. Catharines-Niagara census metro area and do not include Grimsby or West Lincoln.

[don.fraser@sunmedia.ca](mailto:don.fraser@sunmedia.ca)  
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■ **PUBLIC HEALTH:** Province introduces new anti-smoking regulations

# Puffing banned on patios

DAN DAKIN  
QMI Agency Niagara

When the government limited smoking to specially-ventilated rooms, Rick Christoff spent \$30,000 to retrofit his Welland bar. When it banned all smoking indoors, he upgraded his patio to keep the smokers coming back.

When he found out Friday all smoking would be banned on outdoor patios, Christoff wasn't surprised.

"It's absolutely ridiculous, but it was predictable," said Christoff, who owns handlebar Hanks Roadhouse on Rice Rd. in Welland.

All bars and restaurants like his across the province will be affected when new anti-smoking regulations come into effect Jan. 1.

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care announced Friday it will be illegal to smoke on bar and restaurant patios and on playgrounds and sports fields. It will also be illegal to sell tobacco products on college and university campuses.

Christoff said the new regulations are "hypocritical" because the government allows tobacco to be sold and "takes the hell out of it."

"Nobody will deny smoking is bad for you ... but they're taking policing too far," he said. "You can't sit on a patio and have a cigarette, but it's fine to sit on the patio and have a car one

foot away from you spewing exhaust. It lacks a lot of common sense."

Ralph Blamonte, the owner of Mick & Angelo's in Niagara Falls, was surprised the regulations aren't being phased in with certain sections of patios being blocked off for smokers.

"I thought they would section it off first and then after two years go complete," he said.

Blamonte said he doesn't expect the same drop in business he saw a decade ago when smoking inside restaurants was banned.

"That had a big effect on the bar areas," he said. "With the patio it's sort of a wait and see."

The one exemption to the new regulations is with legions opened prior to Nov. 18, 2013, which will still be allowed to have patrons smoking on their patios.

Blamonte wasn't impressed with that news.

"That's not right. It's everyone or no one," he said. "That's what they did last time and all the smokers left our bars and went to the places they allowed it, so it wasn't fair."

But Maria Brigantino, the manager of tobacco control for the Niagara Region Public Health Department, said the changes are a big step forward.

"We want to reduce exposure to smoking in public places because

of the health hazards and we want to de-normalize smoking behaviour and protect young people who are more at risk," she said.

The Region had already put a smoking bylaw in place earlier

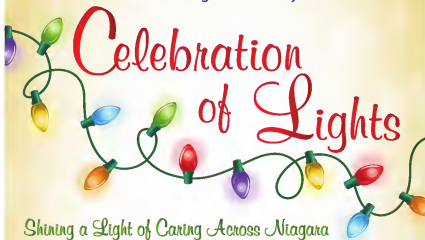
this year that banned smoking on playgrounds and sports fields.

"We were one of the local communities to work together to lead and prompt provincial changes," Brigantino said. "We want to help people quit smok-

ing. By reducing where you're able to smoke, it helps people in their quitting attempt or to stay smoke free."

dan.dakin@summedia.ca  
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## ■ AGRICULTURE

## Cool spring, cool summer result in lower crop yields

ROB HOULE

QMI Agency Niagara

A cool, wet spring followed with a cooler than usual summer has had an effect in farm fields and vineyards this fall.

"Because it was late putting in this year ... and because we didn't have

a summer, everything is coming off late," said Lenny Aarts, who farms winter wheat, corn and soybeans on about 1,200 hectares in Wainfleet and Durwinville.

While he has yet to start harvesting corn, he said soybean yields are all over the map, but generally the

bushels harvested per acre are down from years past.

Aarts, like many Niagara farmers this growing season, was limited on the amount of corn he could plant. A wet spring didn't allow farmers out in their fields until late, which meant corn, which requires a longer grow-

ing season, was switched out for soybeans.

While yields are down, Aarts said the weather has been optimal for harvesting.

"Field conditions are phenomenal," Aarts said. "I've not seen field conditions like this for a long time."

Dry fields mean heavy machinery is allowed to do its work without creating ruts. Fewer ruts in the fall mean less work smoothing them out in the spring. It also means crop farmers are able to plant winter wheat.

"We're still planting wheat," Aarts said recently. "Normally, I quit planting wheat by the 15th of October."

Croppers at this time of year keep a close eye on the weather forecast, with snow a potential crop killer. While corn can be harvested after land freezes over and snow falls, soybeans must be harvested before the weight of snow flattens the plant to the ground, where it can't be picked up by a combine.

The scene on Aarts's fields are reflective of those throughout Niagara, agronomist Jerry Winnicki said.

"Normally, most years we'd be done soybeans by now, but we still have a considerable amount of beans out there to harvest," Winnicki, who works for Clark Agri Service Inc., said, noting there are way more soybean fields to harvest this year than corn fields.

Winnicki said yields are below average and it varies from area to area. While yields are down in Wainfleet ("If people get a 40-bushel average this year, I think they're going to be quite happy"), he said fields on the east side of the Welland Canal, where the soil is gener-

ally inferior for growing crops, have done better than usual.

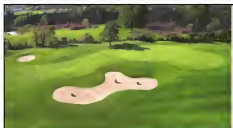
"The crops on the other side of the canal, like Stevensville and Fort Erie, they're probably some of the best crops they've grown in recent years. Last year, they only had 15 bushels an acre, this year they're getting 40 bushels on average," Winnicki said.

Joseph Schumacher, president of the Niagara South Federation of Agriculture, said last Thursday he has yet to begin harvest of the 92 hectares of soybeans he has planted at the Port Robinson farm. He expects the yield to be below average because he was so late seeding and is concerned he may lose some of his crop because of frost hitting plants while they were still green. His fear is the plants will stay green, meaning they won't be able to be harvested because the moisture in them is too high. In addition to the risk of plugging the harvester, the cost of drying these beans is prohibitive.

Niagara North Federation of Agriculture president Albert Witteveen said reports are that soybeans harvested in his jurisdiction have been average to a little better than average and that "peach and tender-fruit growers had a good season."

Grape Growers of Ontario chief executive officer Debbie Zimmerman said the cooler spring and summer, which had few days with temperatures above 30°C, has resulted a harvest that is about two weeks behind schedule.

She said because of damage to vines caused by a harsh winter, the crop is smaller than usual, "but the quality is good."



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# IN BRIEF

## Trial in death of inmate adjourned until April

The second-degree murder trial for two Niagara Detention Centre inmates charged in the 2011 death of a third inmate has been adjourned to April 2015.

Cale Arthur Rose of Niagara and Jeremy William Hall of Hamilton are to

stand trial on the charges.

The pair were charged in the death of 46-year-old Port Colborne taxi driver Kelvin Sawa, who was found injured in his Thorold jail cell Aug. 15, 2011. He died in hospital a few days later.

Sawa had been arrested Aug. 8, 2011, and charged with sexual assault and sexual interference involving a 14-year-old boy.

Rose had been awaiting sentencing on weapons charges and assault. Hall was behind bars on a charge of first-degree murder in connection with the death of a Hamilton resident and has since been convicted.

The second-degree murder trial for Hall and Rose is scheduled to take place beginning April 7, 2015, in Welland.

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### ■ SHORT HILLS

## First Nations deer hunt scheduled for six days

GRANT LAFLECHE  
QMI Agency Niagara

The Ministry of Natural Resources is closing Short Hills Provincial Park for four days this month, and two in December for an aboriginal deer hunt.

The park will be closed to the public on Nov. 22, 23, 27 and 28, and Dec. 6 and 7 for the hunt, the ministry said.

"The local aboriginal community came to us and expressed their interest to hunt for deer in the park, which is protected under the Canadian Constitution, so we want to uphold that right," MNR spokeswoman Jolanta Kowalski said. "We have picked a time of year that is quiet in the park."

The first hunt in the park took place over four days in January 2013, with a second

hunt held for eight days in November of that year.

Kowalski said the hunt only takes place in the southern part of the park, where there are fewer trails and park staff work with Niagara Regional Police and Ontario Provincial Police to secure the park during the days of the bow and arrow only hunt.

The deer harvest was met with some protests and political controversy last year, with some local politicians saying the event could not be done safely. Some regional councillors insisted the MNR cease holding the First Nations deer hunts.

Area resident Robin Zavitz of the Short Hills Wildlife Alliance told regional politicians in 2014 despite the MNR efforts to create a buffer between the hunting zone and her property, an arrow was found lodged in one of her trees and a wounded deer found its way to a neighbour's property.

An investigation in May by the MNR and NRP found no evidence of hunters trespassing on private property.

Kowalski said the park is technically a no-hunting zone. Ontario hunters, whose licences put limits on the number of animals they can kill, are not permitted in the park.

However, the First Nations event is not considered a hunt under Ontario regulations. It is classified as a "harvest" and aboriginal hunters do not have a kill limit.

Kowalski said the deer population in the park is very healthy, and the First Nations harvest is good for the area's ecology.

MNR surveys show the park is home to six times more deer than the park can actually sustain.

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## SHIPPING

## CSL Welland on maiden voyage

QMI Agency Niagara  
A new ship that shares

its name with the Rose City  
was homeward bound on its  
maiden voyage last week.

The Canada Steamship Lines' new Trillium Class Great Lakes bulk carrier, the *CSL Welland*, left Yangshan shipyard where it was built on Zhoushan Island, China, last Wednesday, bound for Montreal.

A media release issued by

Canada Steamship Lines says the ship, named for the Welland Canal, will take 52 to 60 days before it arrives in Canada as it sails through the Great China Sea, crosses the Pacific Ocean, travels through the Panama Canal and the sails north along

the east coast of North America.

The *Welland* is under the command of Capt. Andriy Bondarenko and chief engineer Nicolas Laviole during its maiden voyage.

The 36,100 tonne ship is one of nine new ships CSL has constructed since 2010, including its sister ship the *CSL St-Laurent* which will be shipped to Canada in the weeks ahead.

CSL President Louis Marcel said the new ships place

the company "well ahead of the curve in terms of fleet efficiency and environmental sustainability."

"I couldn't be more proud of CSL's operations and new built teams and the many staff experts who helped make this bold dream a reality. These truly are new ships for the new era at CSL," he said.

People can follow the progress of the *Welland* on its maiden voyage online at portal.itsglobalnet.com.



## Niagara Regional Police Service

Gun Amnesty Event 2014  
November 26 – 29, 2014

Surrender all unwanted guns or ammunition to  
the Niagara Regional Police Service.

The NRPS PAVIS Unit is conducting a gun amnesty event from November 26 to 29, 2014. The goal is to gather all unwanted ammunition, handguns, rifles, air guns or replica guns off the streets of Niagara.

For information and pickup please contact:

**NRPS PAVIS Unit**  
**289-407-2634**



The NRPS PAVIS Unit is funded by the Ministry of Community Safety & Correctional Services Ontario with a goal towards keeping Niagara streets safe from violence, gun and gang activity.



**AARON BOGGIO**  
R.Ph., B.Sc., PHM



**RON PARTON**  
R.Ph., B.Sc., PHM

**Ask Our**

## Pharmacists FLU VACCINE

It is time to start thinking about getting the Flu vaccine. Each year an average of 20,000 people are hospitalized, and between 1,000 and 6,000 Canadians can die of influenza and its complications. Those most likely to suffer complications of the flu are the most vulnerable; children under two and adults over 65. The seasonal influenza vaccine is safe and effective and can benefit people of all ages. The flu shot only provides protection up to 12 months; immunization is required each year. This year's flu shot protects against the H1N1 flu virus as well as two other strains of flu. October to mid-November is the best time for immunization, but the vaccine may still be given in winter months.

Who should get immunized? The following is a list from the recommended guidelines.

### PEOPLE AT HIGH RISK OF INFLUENZA-RELATED COMPLICATIONS, INCLUDING:

#### • ADULTS AND CHILDREN WITH CHRONIC CONDITIONS SUCH AS:

- CARDIAC OR LUNG DISORDERS SUCH AS ASTHMA
- DIABETES MELLITUS AND OTHER METABOLIC DISEASES
- CANCER, IMMUNODEFICIENCY, IMMUNOSUPPRESSION
- RENAL DISEASE
- ANEMIA
- CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS WITH CONDITIONS TREATED FOR LONG PERIODS WITH ASPIRIN
- ALL RESIDENTS OF NURSING HOMES OR OTHER CHRONIC CARE FACILITIES
- SENIORS AGED 65 YEARS OR OLDER
- PREGNANT WOMEN
- CHILDREN AGED 6 MONTHS TO 23 MONTHS OF AGE
- PERSONS WHO ARE MORBIDLY OBESE
- ABORIGINAL PEOPLES

### PEOPLE CAPABLE OF TRANSMITTING INFLUENZA TO THOSE AT HIGH RISK OF COMPLICATIONS, INCLUDING:

- HEALTH CARE AND OTHER CARE PROVIDERS
- HOUSEHOLD CONTACTS OF THOSE AT HIGH RISK AND TO INFANTS LESS THAN SIX MONTHS
- MEMBERS OF A HOUSEHOLD EXPECTING A NEWBORN DURING FLU SEASON
- WOMEN AT ALL STAGES OF PREGNANCY OR BREASTFEEDING MOTHERS
- THOSE PROVIDING REGULAR CHILD CARE TO CHILDREN 0-23 MONTHS
- THOSE WHO PROVIDE SERVICES WITHIN CLOSED SETTINGS TO PERSONS AT HIGH RISK

### OTHERS

- PEOPLE WHO PROVIDE ESSENTIAL COMMUNITY SERVICES
- PEOPLE IN DIRECT CONTACT WITH AVIAN INFLUENZA INFECTED POULTRY
- HEALTHY PEOPLE AGED 65 YEARS SHOULD CONSIDER GETTING THE VACCINE EVEN IF THEY ARE NOT IN ONE OF THE ABOVE GROUPS

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# LOCAL NEWS



## Autism Spectrum Disorder Medication Treatment Study PARTICIPANTS NEEDED

### MEDICATION OFFERS PROMISING NEW OPTION FOR AUTISM TREATMENT

Currently there are no medications approved to treat the core deficits of autism (social skills, repetitive behaviours). McMaster University/McMaster Children's Hospital is conducting a research study to investigate whether the drug **Riluzole** may be helpful with these symptoms. **Riluzole** is a drug that is already **Health Canada & FDA approved** for treating adults with a neurological disorder.

**Why is Riluzole being considered a treatment for ASD?** The human brain is never quiet: every region constantly fires electrical signals. Some signals are loud and clear and others are muffled murmurs. In autism, the background murmurs are hard to tune out and the brain becomes noisy, making it difficult to receive clear signals. Its like trying to have a private conversation in a crowded room, some words get lost and the message is hard to understand. Riluzole is a drug that may help some people with ASD tune out brain background noise so that they can receive clear signals. In this way, **Riluzole may improve compulsive, aggressive and repetitive behaviours. Unlike current drug treatments, Riluzole may also improve social skills and help kids with ASD talk to other children, make friends and enjoy activities with other people.**

**Who can participate?** Children aged 6-17 diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD, Autism, PDD-NOS, or Asperger's Syndrome) may be eligible. You do not have to reside within the hospital's catchment area in order to participate. Expenses related to participation (e.g. parking, cost of drug) will be paid for by the study. Participants will also receive compensation for their time as a token of appreciation.

**How do I know if this trial would be a good fit for my child?** Decisions about medication always require careful consideration. Dr. Bennett will meet with you at the beginning to provide information and discuss whether this study is right for you and your child.

**How do I learn more?** To learn more, or to participate, please contact Dr. Teresa Bennett's Research office at 905-521-2100 extension 74906.

## ■ EDUCATION

### Shining a global light on bullying

ALISON LANGLEY  
QMI Agency Niagara

Taylor Dowd is eager to share her battle against bullying with a global audience.

The 15-year-old Grade 10 student was one of a number of students at Saint Paul High School who were interviewed by a South Korean television crew that was in Niagara on Nov. 7, to film segments for an upcoming documentary on bullying.

"We can share our ideas with lots of people and, hopefully, we can give them ideas that will work for them as well," she said.

Dowd is a member of the school's social climate committee, a student-led initiative which works to foster a positive and inclusive environment at school.

Each year, the students create videos to promote Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week.

The production company from KBS, the national broadcaster of South Korea, came across Saint Paul's anti-

bullying initiatives while researching the topic online.

A number of schools within the Niagara Catholic District School Board have received Ontario Premier's Awards for Accepting Schools. The award recognizes schools that create a safe, inclusive and accepting environment.

"The crew wanted a Canadian high school perspective," said teacher Matt Miani.

"Our initiatives are about being proactive to bullying rather than reactive."

Producer Kim So Young said she expects the 45-minute documentary to be broadcast in mid-December.

"I wanted to do a report on bullying and how others deal with the issue," she said.

The crew spent the morning at Blessed Trinity Catholic Secondary School in Grimsby before heading to Niagara Falls.

alison.langley@summedia.ca  
Twitter @tallislangley

**Welland & District Humane Society**

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## OPENING CEREMONIES

Saturday, November 15 • 6pm - 9pm  
Queen Victoria Park (across from the Falls)

**JOHN LAW**  
OMI Agency Niagara

When you consider the climate, this should actually be the greatest time to see movies in theatres. Piracy, home entertainment systems and declining attendance should have the theatre chains scrambling to get our butts in their seats. By any means possible.

Instead, after this weekend, I'm wondering if movie theatres even want me back any more. It had nothing to do with the movie or the theatre — I didn't even get to the parking lot. No, after a quick check online to see which theatre *Nightcrawler* was playing in, plans were cancelled altogether.

At the Cineplex Odeon-owned Niagara Square Theatre, the only option to see *Nightcrawler* was the UltraAVX theatre. The one with better sound and picture quality. The one with reclining seats. The one where you choose your seats on a computer screen.

The one where I wonder why I bothered leaving the house.

When it comes to spending more on a movie ticket — UltraAVX at Niagara Square is \$12.50, compared to the usual \$9.50 — there needs to be a good reason: 3-D. Free refills. Anything directed by James Cameron. But to force

it on moviegoers who want to watch a Jake Gyllenhaal thriller? Really?

I wasn't going to get burned again. A month ago, it wasn't until I was standing in line that I realized *Gone Girl* would only be in the UltraAVX theatre. It was too late to go to the Pen Centre cinemas, so we took the plunge.

After paying \$25 for two tickets, the lady at the counter turned her computer around and asked me to pick my seats.

Um ... what? Is this the opera? Did I go to the Shaw Festival by mistake? "What if someone annoying sits near us and we want to switch seats?" I asked her. "Well, people usually sit where they want anyway, it's no big deal," she replied.

So why are we going through this charade then?

Next stop: Concession stand. You don't need me to remind you how painful this is. After taking a hit on the tickets, I opted for a small Coke. It still cost \$4.60.

Inside the theatre, UltraAVX goes for that lounge vibe. Cozy seats, swanky lighting. All I noticed was the garbage left behind by the last people ... directly in front of my chosen seat. So much for being "the next level of cinema," as Cineplex boasted back in 2010 when the concept was introduced.

Continued on Page 22

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# In The NEWS



Pictured above: L-R

Jessica-Sobey, Lori-Client Coordinator  
Pelham Cares, Fredy-Sobey

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THE TRIBUNE

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## It's easily a \$50 night out for two

From Page 20

As the movie started, there was one last chance to wow me. Dazzling clarity, senses-shattering sound, anything to justify the price. Nope. Just Ben Affleck and Rosamund Pike on a big screen. Sure, the sound and detail was nice, but shouldn't it be in every Cineplex? Odeon theatre anyway? Isn't that the whole reason we still see movies in theatres?

For answers I went to Mike Langdon, Cineplex Entertainment's director of communications.

"UltraAVX has been wildly popular since it was introduced," he said, with feedback showing patrons love the option of reserving seats days or weeks in advance. If there's a complaint, he adds, it's that people want more movies — not less — in the format. In a 10-screen facility like Niagara Falls, opening a movie like *Nightcrawler* on multiple screens means something else gets bumped.

"There are on average four to five new movies opening a week," he said. "You've got to make some choices where to put things, and the best option to provide, we think, is (to open) on AVX."

"Yours is the first complaint of this

type we've received."

Wait a sec... so it's just me? Everyone actually loves AVX?

If everyone loves it, I ask Langdon, shouldn't it be just the new standard in every theatre?

"Some of the amenities of UltraAVX come with significant costs," he said, citing the Dolby Atmos sound system and Solaria 4K projectors. "These are significant upgrades."

The result, he added, is an experience you can't possibly get at home.

But that goes both ways. You also don't get overpriced concessions, annoying strangers, someone else's cellphone, and a bad seat if you're watching at home. And to cap it off, Cineplex may soon be charging extra for specific seats.

Between the tickets and food, it's easily a \$30 night out for two people. And as movies continue to be dwarfed by the best TV shows, that cost looms larger.

So yes, bring on *The Avengers: Age of Ultron* in UltraAVX. Count me in for *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*. But those days of one or two movies a week are a long time ago, in a theatre far, far away.

[john.law@sunmedia.ca](mailto:john.law@sunmedia.ca)



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# IN 5 MINUTES

News and events – visually



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## Armoured battle

During the Second World War, the American-built Sherman tank became the Western Allies' standard battle tank, eventually replacing the Canadian-built Ram in Canadian armoured divisions. They were used in both the invasion of Sicily and the Battle of Normandy.



QMI AGENCY FILE PHOTO

A Sherman tank  
in Winnipeg.

### SHERMAN M4A4

Width: 2.62 m

Range: 160 km

Max. speed: 40 km/h

Weight: 31,600 kg

**Crew: 5** (commander, gunner, loader/wireless operator, driver, co-driver/machine-gunner)

**Two .30-calibre Browning machine-guns:** 4,750 rounds (One for co-driver, other mounted in turret)

**75 mm gun:** 97 rounds (Armour-piercing, high explosive and smoke ammunition)

**Turret:** Armour: 75 mm front; 50 mm sides and rear

**Turret hatch** race

**Hull armour:** 75 mm front; 38 mm sides and rear

**Commander:** Verbally called out target, its type, its location and what projectile to load

**Gunner:** Located targets and fired upon them

**Loader:** Loaded ammunition into main gun

*With time, many crews eventually learned to run their tanks on instinct and hand signals.*

**Machine-gunner/co-driver**

Driver's hatch

**Driver:** Forward left; used two steering levers and floor pedals

.30-calibre machine-gun

Main drive sprocket  
Transmission

Air cleaner

Radiator filler cover

Air cleaner manifold

**Height:** 2.74 m

Exhaust pipe

Front propeller shaft

Slip ring

Turret basket

Rear propeller shaft

Generator

Radiator

**Engine:** Chrysler A57 multibank 30-cylinder gasoline engine; 425 hp

Track idler  
Single water pump

**Length:** 6.06 m

**Riding in the tanks had devastating effects on the crew**

Tank engines were noisy; they were in the middle of the tank with no covers or mufflers

Engines released poisonous gas; ventilation in the tanks was poor

Lack of suspension system; crew was continuously bounced around inside the tank as they drove over rough terrain

Early tanks had armour too thin to protect from machine gun fire

Direct hits from shells could send rivets and shrapnel flying inside the vehicle

Gasoline engines were used; a direct hit could spark an internal fire, burning the crew alive

Sources: United States Government public domain (tank diagram); militaryfactory.com; imdbsearch  
SUSAN BATSFORD, GRAPHICS EDITOR,  
TWITTER @BATSFORD; INFOGRAPHIC BY  
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